



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING

Georgia Board of Nursing, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/rn> P: 478-207-2440 F: 877-371-5712

April 2010
Volume 2, Issue 2

Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Update from the Director	1
About the Board	1
2010 Meeting Dates	2
Board Members and Staff	2
Active Licensees and Expiration Dates	2
Actions Taken by the Board	2-3
Important Announcement	4
License Renewal Process	4-5
Complaint Process Information	5
Frequently Asked Questions	6

working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

About the Board

The Georgia Board of Nursing consists of eight members: seven registered nurses and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

Registered Nurses engage in the care of the ill, and promote and maintain health among individuals and groups. This care is delivered as a result of an assessment of the health status, establishment of a nursing diagnosis, setting nursing goals based upon the identified needs, and then implementing and evaluating the care delivered.

Advanced practice registered nurses include Nurse Practitioners (NP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), Clinical Nurse Specialists, Psych/Mental Health (CNS,PMH) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM). Advanced nursing practice is practice by a registered professional nurse who meets the educational, practice, and national certification requirements specified by the Georgia Board of Nursing, and are authorized to practice by the Board.

2010 Meeting Dates

May 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 May 13–14, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
 July 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 July 15–16, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
 September 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 September 16–17, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
 November 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 November 18–19, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/rn

Active Licensees

Advanced Practice, CRNA: 1,768
 Advanced Practice, CNM: 430
 Advanced Practice, NP: 4,359
 Advanced Practice, CNS/PMH: 312
 Registered Professional Nurse: 105,279
 Licensed Undergraduate Nurse: 13

Board Members and Staff

Delynn M Keeton, RN, MN, CPHRM – President
 Scott Thigpen, RN, MSN, CEN, CCRN – Vice President
 Susan Ayers, RN, BSN, MPH
 Barry A. Cranfill, RN, CRNA
 Mary Anderson, RN, MA, CNAA – Cognizant Member
 Linda W Smith, RN, MSN
 Janice K Flynn, RN, DSN, Ph.D.
 Dawn H. Taylor, Consumer Member

Sandy Bond
 Executive Director
 Georgia Board of Nursing

Expiration Dates

Advanced Practice CNM: January 31
 Advanced Practice CNS/PMH: January 31
 Advanced Practice CRNA: January 31
 Advanced Practice NP: January 31
 Registered Professional Nurse: January 31
 Licensed Undergraduate Nurse: *January 31 of odd numbered years*

"It is illegal to practice nursing with an expired license."

Actions Taken by the Board

January: The Board moved that based upon compliance with Rules 410–4–.01 (1) through (3), developmental approval is granted to Atlanta Technical College for the development and implementation of its proposed Associate Degree Nursing Program.

The Board moved to grant developmental approval to Bauder College for the development and implementation of an associate degree program.

The Board moved that based upon compliance with Rules 410–4–.01 (4), (5) and (6) initial approval is granted to Gordon College for the enrollment of the first cohort of RN/BSN students in the summer 2010 semester.

The Board moved to grant approval to Emory University for the initiation of an accelerated BSN option for second degree students in the summer 2010 term.

The Board accepted the recommendations and commendations from the October 26, 2009 through October 28, 2009 North Georgia College & State University College RN/BSN Program Site Visit Report.

The Board accepted the recommendations and commendations from the October 26, 2009 through October 28, 2009 North Georgia College & State University College Associate Degree Nursing Program site visit report.

The Board accepted the following public consent orders:

- Linda Elaine Hickman, Moultrie: Fined \$500 and one year probation extension for violation of previous order.
- Sharon Kay Chambliss Mulkey, Waycross: Terminating May 21, 2013 and amended consent order for relapse on Stadol.
- Mary Frances M. Brown Nichols, Savannah: Fined \$1000 and four years probation for relapsing and diverting drugs after prior consent orders.

The Board accepted the following public consent agreement for licensure by endorsement:

- Mary Jane Martin, Athens: Probation concurrent with criminal probation for conviction of prescription forgery.

The Board suspended the following licensee:

- Sharon Sue Palmer, Lizella: Diagnosed with Polysubstance Dependence and recommended for inpatient treatment for such condition.

The Board accepted voluntary surrenders from the following individuals:

- Sandra J. White, Dacula
- Linda Kay Roberts, Eatonton
- Angela Marie Connell Owens, McRae

March: The Board voted to adopt the following Board Rule:

- Rule 410-6-.02 Applicants for Licensure by Examination: The amendment changes the definition of "health care facility" as defined in paragraph (9)(d) of the Rule.

The Board granted initial approval to Shorter College for the enrollment of its first cohort of at least 20 students in nursing courses in the prelicensure BSN Program in Fall 2010.

The Board accepted Report III submitted by Gwinnett Technical College in support of its Associate Degree Nursing Program.

The Board extended full approval through December 31, 2011 for the BSN Program at Kennesaw State University.

The Board accepted the following public consent order:

- Carrie Anne Blackburn, Graniteville, SC: Four years for drug diversion and chemical dependence

The Board suspended the following license:

- Brenda Sue Abeling Crosby, Kathleen: Violation of previous consent orders

The Board accepted the following voluntary surrender:

- Craig Donahue Smart, Alma

Important Announcement

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!

Upon receipt of your original pocket card, note the expiration date. **THE BOARD WILL NOT MAIL RENEWAL NOTICES, NOTIFICATION WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD.** A renewal notice will be mailed out only to those without email addresses. It is your responsibility to renew your license on or prior to your expiration date. Paper renewals will only be available by request. If you need a paper renewal, you may contact the Georgia Board of Nursing at (478) 207-2440.

It is the nurse's responsibility to notify the Georgia Board of Nursing of any changes in demographic information, which would include any change in email addresses.

All registered nurses and nursing students are able to sign up for important Board updates at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/rn/, under online services, to receive Board news.

License Renewal Process

Fingerprint-Based Criminal Background Check:

Criminal background checks are required by O.C.G.A. § 43-26-7. The GAPS fingerprint background check process is simple and easy to use. Applicants must register with Cogent Systems prior to going to the fingerprint site. There will be no data collection or registration at the fingerprint collection sites. Fingerprint services will not be provided to applicants who have not registered. Registration may be completed online or over the phone. To register online, go to www.ga.cogentid.com. Online registration is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To register by phone, dial 1.888.439.2512 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. The data collected from the applicant during the registration process is the same data collected on the fingerprint cards. When registering, the ORI number to use when prompted is GA922931Z. The Verification Code is 922931Z.

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The board addresses disciplinary issues on a case-by-case basis and takes these matters very seriously applying sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Board of Nursing Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/rn/.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on our website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-26-11 and at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19. State laws and Board rules may be found on our website.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Nursing to regulate the licensing and practice of nursing. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-26 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for addressing complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which are found on the Board website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at: www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.